



News Release

US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District
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PRADO DAM UPDATE 7 P.M., 14 JANUARY 2005

LOS ANGELES - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered minor seepage on January 13th on the downstream face of Prado Dam, which at this time does not threaten the safety of the dam. The Corps has been constantly monitoring the situation and taking precautionary measures since the discovery. The dam is located within the borders of both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties at the juncture of I-71 and I-91 near the city of Corona.

The recent storm and flood events have produced near record pool levels behind Prado Dam. The reservoir water surface elevation behind Prado Dam peaked at 527.4 feet above sea level (67.4 feet deep) on January 11th. The reservoir pool level has since been reduced to elevation 521.7 feet at 3:30 PM today. When the seepage was discovered, the Corps increased the release of water from the dam from 5,000 to 10,000 cubic feet per second to bring down the level of water behind the Prado Dam as rapidly as possible. The current releases of water will continue until the reservoir pool level recedes to about elevation 505 feet, which is forecast to occur on Monday, January 17th. We are holding back floodwaters at both the San Antonio Dam and Seven Oaks Dam upstream to reduce the inflow of water to Prado Dam.

The remedial measures constructed have stabilized the Prado Dam abutment area. Corps personnel have been on the scene all day as has a Corps contractor reinforcing the face of the abutment. As the Prado Reservoir water level is lowered the hydraulic pressure on the dam abutment subject to seepage is reduced. Water is being lowered on both sides of the cofferdam that was constructed to protect the new outlet works construction area from winter floods.

"We expect to be down to elevation 505 feet (25,750 acre feet of water) behind the dam by Monday," commented Los Angeles District Commander COL Alex Dornstauber. At elevation 505 feet we can begin to recondition the cofferdam to be ready for subsequent flood inflows to the dam.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRADO DAM CONSTRUCTION GO TO

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Pradodam/pradodam.htm>